

# St. Olaf College Bulletin

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## THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE LIBRARY

### HISTORICAL NOTES BY THE LIBRARIAN

St. Olaf's School was chartered the sixth of November, 1874, and began work the eighth of January, 1875. In the fall of the same year, or early in the following year, the foundation of a library was made by the gift of a set of Chamber's Encyclopedia in ten volumes which was presented by Prof. A. A. Veblen, who was then a student at Carleton College. He had received it as a premium for getting up a club of subscribers to Lippincott's Magazine. This set of Chamber's was in use till it was worn out and discarded in 1891-'92.

In 1878-'79 G. M. Phillips gave a number of books to the Library, and he has continued his gifts till quite recently, and in this way as well as in several other ways he has proved himself a good friend of St. Olaf, whom we delight to honor.

About this time Professor Mohn, the Principal of the School, had a shelf made for the reception of these and a few other books. It was made by Mr. Theodore Miller, at that time a furniture dealer in town. When I came to St. Olaf, in 1881, this shelf with the few books, was standing in a small room in the north end of what is now the Chemical Laboratory, next door to the hall on the first floor of the Main Building. I do not remember that there was any Librarian before the year 1884-'85, when Prof. H. T. Ytterboe was appointed. The books were not numbered. It was not necessary, as they could be so easily counted.

In 1885-'86 Professor O. M. Kalheim became Librarian. He is the organizer of the Library. Under his direction the students

formed a library association, paying a fee of \$1.00 a year which entitled them to membership. Besides this he used many schemes to increase the slender income, such as sociables, operettas, lectures, and solicitations by himself or by students from outsiders during holidays. The proceeds he invested in new books, chiefly in English literature, prose and poetry. He had the first book labels printed, a small slip of red paper, which may still be found in many of the early volumes. He also began an accession book and the volume entered as number one is *Tom Brown's School Days*, which cost forty-five cents and was paid for on the 24th of November, 1885. He did not make any attempt to enter the books in the order they had been acquired, for then, as we have seen, *Chamber's* should have occupied the first place. Professor Kalheim was an enthusiastic student of literature, especially English and Norwegian, and he succeeded in awakening interest in the students also. He served as Librarian during the two years he stayed with us, till June, 1887.

In the fall of 1887 the Faculty elected Prof. I. F. Grose to the position vacated by Professor Kalheim. He remained in this office during the four years following, till he, also, severed his connection with St. Olaf and accepted the position as the first president of the new school in Moorhead, Concordia College, in 1891. *System* is the watchword of Professor Grose, and he brought it to bear in his work as Librarian. For many years the Library remained open only to the members of the Library Association. A separate Reading Room was organized, in which the various periodicals were kept. Professor Grose not only added on the average over one hundred volumes a year of carefully selected books, but he especially developed the Reading Room, adding many new periodicals to the files.

The result of the first six years of the Library may be seen from the following table:

Year	Receipts	Expenditures	No. of Vols. Added
1885-'86	\$ 96.08	\$ 79.95	234
1886-'87	17.00	19.05	58
1887-'88	154.08	154.30	181
1888-'89	74.35	84.71	92
1889-'90	82.39	79.94	75
1890-'91	60.35	66.23	58
Total.....	\$484.25	\$484.18	698

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With a balance of seven cents in the treasury the present Librarian entered upon his duties, having been elected by the Faculty as the successor of Professor Grose. During these twenty-five years that he has held office the Library has increased from 698 to 12,349 volumes. The annual gain will be seen from the following table:

Year	Vols.	Year	Vols.
1891-'92	489	1904-'05	650
1892-'93	178	1905-'06	604
1893-'94	110	1906-'07	360
1894-'95	269	1907-'08	297
1895-'96	277	1908-'09	647
1896-'97	443	1909-'10	872
1897-'98	26	1910-'11	821
1898-'99	150	1911-'12	582
1899-'00	600	1912-'13	348
1900-'01	378	1913-'14	481
1901-'02	291	1914-'15	943
1902-'03	91	1915-'16	803
1903-'04	270	1916-Dec. 1	372

A very large percentage of the books has come to us by gift, and it is the special purpose of this bulletin to acknowledge our indebtedness to our friends who have so liberally given of their treasures, both in money, in furnishings, and in books. Mention has already been made of a couple of the earliest donors. Among these should also have been mentioned Rev. B. J. Muus, who had a habit of filling his pockets with books whenever he came to visit the school, and this practice he kept up until he retired from the ministry and returned to Norway. After having given his children what they desired to keep, he gave the remainder of his books and pamphlets to St. Olaf, and it required more than a year of the Librarian's spare time (he was doing the full work of a teacher all these years up to 1907) to arrange and catalog them. His books were naturally chiefly theological, but there were also quite a number of books in general literature, history, and science.

Another large accession came to us when the preparatory department of the United Church Seminary was transferred to St. Olaf. And these books, having been selected and bought for the purpose of the institution, filled a distinct need. Thanks are due especially to Rev. Oluf Glasoe, the Librarian of the Seminary, for the selection of these books.

Another man who deserves special mention for large and ex-

tremely valuable contributions of books is Dr. O. M. Norlie, who as a teacher had acquired an excellent collection of books suitable for teachers and students, all new and up-to-date, and as good as cash.

The late Erik S. Gjellum, of Boulder, Colorado, also at different times sent us valuable gifts from his library, and finally ordered the remainder of it to be sent to St. Olaf, after having given his children what they desired to keep.

There are many other donors whom it would be a pleasure to mention, but space forbids a lengthy mention, and we can only give their names in the following list, followed by the number of volumes contributed by each. Of course the mere number of volumes is but a poor criterion of the value of the gift. One volume of a valuable work may outweigh in value scores of other books. Mr. Heatwole, for instance, presented a copy of Studer's *Ornithology*, which I found quoted in a book-catalog at that time at \$60.00.

#### A LIST OF DONORS OF BOOKS AND NUMBER OF VOLUMES GIVEN.

Aasgaard, Prof. J. A. ....	1	Class of '09, St. Olaf.....	162
Aasve, Ole Anderson .....	1	Class of '10, St. Olaf.....	98
Amundsen, H. E. (student)...	23	Class of '11, St. Olaf.....	62
Anderson, Axel O. (student)...	1	Class of '12, St. Olaf.....	18
Anderson, Prof. R. B. ....	20	Dreyer, Rev. Peder .....	1
Anundsen, B. ....	4	Egge, Dr. A. E. ....	36
Augsburg Publishing House...	30	Eikeland, Prof. P. J. ....	4
Benneville, James S. de (author) .....	1	Engoe, H. T. ....	12
Berg, Dr. G. O. ....	2	Estrem, Andrew .....	1
Bergh, Hallvard (author) ....	1	Faculty of St. Olaf College...	140
Bergh, Rev. J. A. ....	18	Felland, Elsa B. (student)....	2
Birkeland, K. B. (author)....	1	Felland, Prof. O. G. ....	72
Björneby, Prof. A. G. ....	2	Flaten, Dr. Nils .....	2
Boraas, Prof. Julius .....	1	Flaten, O. I. ....	41
Brubaker, Dr. E. E. ....	10	Fossum, Dr. Andrew .....	13
Bu, Rev. O. A. ....	4	Gaebelein, A. C. (author)....	2
Calef, O. N. ....	15	General Synod .....	3
Carleton College .....	2	Gerberding, Prof. G. H. (author) .....	3
Carnegie, Andrew (author)...	1	Gillette, K. C. (author)....	1
Carpenter, C. P. ....	1	Gjellum, Erik S. ....	195
Casson, Herbert N. (author) .....	1	Gjevne, Rev. A. H. ....	8
Christensen, C. ....	1	Glasoe, Dr. P. M. ....	1
Class of '95, St. Olaf.....	12	Golberg, Peder .....	15
Class of '99, St. Olaf.....	6	Gordon, Hanford L. (author)....	3
Class of '04, St. Olaf.....	1	Granrud, Dr. J. E. ....	18
Class of '06, St. Olaf.....	48	Graves, Bishop A. R. (author) .....	1
Class of '07, St. Olaf.....	1	Greaves, H. L. ....	14
Class of '08, St. Olaf.....	1	Grose, Prof. I. F. ....	49

Hanson, Rev. Th. A. ....	18	Nödtvedt, Rev. C. M. (author) ....	1
Harder, Erwin E. (author)....	4	Nordgaard, Prof. J. S. ....	2
Harris, Francis B. (author)....	1	Norlie, Dr. O. M. ....	266
Heatwole, Hon. J. P. ....	6	Northfield Public Library ....	7
Hegland Dr. M. (author)....	1	Nyhus, Mrs. Susanna.....	30
Heltne, Rev. C. P. ....	4	Ohnstad, Oliver (student)....	1
Hetle, Prof. E. ....	1	Oppegard, A. ....	1
Hill, J. J. (author).....	2	Quammen, Rev. N. A. ....	15
Holte, Dr. H. ....	10	Quie, O. H. ....	1
Homme, Thorleiv ....	2	Palmer, Mrs. C. F. ....	2
Hopperstad, J. J. ....	21	Parker, Sir Gilbert (author) ..	5
Hougen, Rev. J. O. ....	30	Pederson, Rev. M. A. (author) ....	1
Hueffer, Ford M. (author)....	2	Peters, M. C. (author).....	1
Ingbert, Dr. Charles E. ....	147	Permanent Library Fund.....	331
Jensen, Rev. E. ....	2	Pfeiffer, Rev. Edward (author) ....	1
Jenson, Rev. C. C. A. ....	4	Phillips, G. M. ....	50
Johnson, A. E. ....	1	Pleasant View Luther College. ....	1
Johnson, Elling ....	1	Rasmussen, Rev. Gerhard....	2
Johnson, J. G. W. (student)....	2	Raymond, George L. (author) ..	14
Jones, R. L. (author).....	2	Reinholdt, Oscar H. (student) ..	2
Kalheim, Prof. O. M. ....	1	Rice, G. R. ....	14
Kildahl, Andrew J. ....	2	Ringstad, Ivan ....	1
Kildahl, Dr. J. N. ....	15	Ringstad, Iver G. ....	39
Klevan, Rev. Nils ....	1	Roalkvam, Rev. H. G. (author) ....	2
Kofod, I. H. ....	5	Roe, Herman ....	3
Larsen, Rev. Gustav A. ....	10	Rolvaag, Prof. O. E. ....	4
Larson, Rev. C. M. ....	1	Roseland, Rev. J. C. ....	1
Larson, L. M. (author)....	1	Roth, Rev. D. Luther (author) ..	1
Lee, Prof. Olav ....	5	Rowberg, A. A. ....	1
Lindberg, C. O. (student)....	1	Running, Prof. Theodore ....	11
Lindtwed, Prof. C. B. ....	9	Rygh, Rev. G. T. ....	16
Löndahl, Rev. M. ....	1	Ryland, Prof. A. ....	6
Lunde, Nikols T. ....	2	Saevig, Agnes (student)....	1
Luther College Library ....	1	Schilling, W. F. ....	30
Lutheran Publishing House....	72	Schmidt, Dr. F. A. ....	2
Lynne, Lars E. ....	6	Schmidt, Aug. M. ....	6
Lysnes, Rev. Olaf ....	2	Schmidt, Prof. E. W. ....	2
Macalester College ....	1	Schmidt, Prof. P. G. ....	2
Mattson, Col. Hans (author) ..	2	Scholl, Dr. J. ....	1
Melby, Gustav (author)....	1	Schweitzer, F. R. ....	1
Mellby, Prof. Agnes.....	19	Solberg, Prof. C. O. ....	11
Mellby, Dr. C. A. ....	13	Solveson, Prof. Hilda ....	1
Michaelson, E. (student)....	1	Sommervold, J. H. (student)....	2
Millor, Darius (author)....	1	Sövik, Prof. Erik ....	5
Minne, Rev. N. M. ....	20	Stoonsland, Halle ....	19
Mission Study Classes, St. Olaf ....	50	Stoonsland, Prof. M. M. ....	8
Mohn Printing Co. ....	7	Stine, Thomas O. (author)....	1
Mohn, Prof. and Mrs. Th. N. ..	38	Storaasli, Rev. O. T. ....	14
Molee, Elias (author)....	2	Strauss, L. ....	1
Mueller, Rev. George H. ....	1	Strömmé, Prof. P. O. ....	16
Muus, Rev. B. J. ....	926		
Ness, Prof. J. A. ....	1		
Nesseth, T. H. ....	10		

Tandberg, Prof. J. P. ....	I	Valdeland, Rev. O. (author)...	I
Thomas, S. B. ....	I	Waldorf College .....	I
Thompson, Chr. T. (student). ....	I	Wangen, P. A. ....	2
Tjernagel, N. (author)....	I	Wergeland, Agnes M. (author) .....	I
Tjosvold, Prof. C. M. ....	I	Whaling, Clara I. O. ....	I
Treider, Chr. ....	4	Whipple, Bishop H. B. (author) .....	I
Udseth, R. ....	20	Ytterboe, T. E. ....	I
Ulvestad, M. (author)....	I	Ytterboe, Prof. and Mrs. H. T. ....	6
U. C. Seminary and Minerva Library .....	565		
Veblen, A. A. ....	18		

This list is not complete. I have omitted all the books which have been sent thru friends at Washington from the Government Printing Office, and also many books from various publishers, sent for advertising purposes. And of the remainder there are some where the source whence they came is unknown. But to all our friends who have given us books, whether mentioned by name or not, the Library feels grateful and returns thanks.

#### GIFTS OF MONEY.

One item in the foregoing list, Permanent Library Fund, 331 volumes, represents the income from a fund which was started in 1891 by the Librarian. The following contributions have been made to it:

1891, Thanksgiving, O. G. Felland.....	\$ 100.00
1891, Thanksgiving, Students .....	8.00
1894, Jan. 5th, H. T. Ytterboe.....	10.00
1896, Jan. 17th, H. T. Ytterboe.....	5.00
1896, Oct. 13th, O. G. Felland.....	25.00
1897, Jan. 13th, H. T. Ytterboe.....	5.00
1899, March 6th, O. G. Felland.....	7.00
1910, Bequest, Knut Berge.....	500.00
1911, Bequest, Halle Steensland.....	1,000.00
1913, Bequest, Dr. J. R. Phillips.....	2,000.00
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Total endowment .....	\$3,660.00

Other donations of money were made by Tollef Sanderson on March 24th, 1892, \$10.00, and on November 24th, 1896, \$15.00, from LeSueur River congregation for the purchase of the Lutheran Commentary, October 6th, 1900 "Minerva," U. C. Seminary, \$32.64.

#### EQUIPMENT AND HOUSING

Up to 1886 the Library was located in a room on the first floor of the Main Building. In the summer of '86 Professor Kalheim

secured the tower room on the second floor, the present Registry. He also procured new shelving. In 1893-'94 the Reading Room was on the third floor, directly above the Library, but the following year it was moved down into the basement, occupying the southeast corner room. The Library remained in the tower room until it became too crowded, and about 1898-'99 it was moved down on the first floor, occupying two of the rooms which had been vacated by Professor Ytterboe, the north end of the present Biological Laboratory. New shelves had been made from time to time as required, from designs by Professor Rollefson and the Librarian. Some of these are still in use.

Soon after we had moved in we received the B. J. Muus Library and it almost swamped us. But fortunately relief came soon after. Consul Halle Steensland decided to build a Library for us, and in 1902 it was finished and accepted by him from the contractor on the 5th of August. Immediately the transfer of the books into the new Steensland Library was made, and the Librarian was assisted by two little girls, Evelyn Ytterboe and Elsa Felland, who labored most industriously carrying the heavy volumes into their permanent home. There was plenty of room, but no shelves except the old ones. However, we got the two shelves in the west end made, the design for the shelves was drawn by the Librarian and built by Mr. Wickman. But the Library kept growing apace, and soon we had to look out for more shelving, and didn't know where to look. But a good friend in Madison, Wis., Mr. Nels Winther Ellefson, found out what was needed, and he kindly furnished the best white birch, and we were enabled to complete the shelving, which extends around the entire main room of the Library. For this gift Mr. Ellefson will be long remembered and warmly thanked. These shelves will hold approximately 7,000 volumes, but we have now over 12,000, and more coming. Where are the other 5,000 or 6,000? Well, some are on shelves in the basement class-room, some in the former heating room, some piled on the floor or in boxes in the Museum, some in the President's office in the Main Building, and elsewhere. The Library building has in fact become much too small, and additional room is a crying need. We hesitate to make any alterations in, or addition to the beautiful building given us by Consul Steensland, but something must be done, and that right soon.

A system of classification is necessary in every library. After studying the subject and interviewing the Librarian of Carleton College, the late Professor Huntington, Dr. Folwell, Librarian of



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the University of Minnesota, and Dr. James K. Hosmer, of the Minneapolis Public Library, I decided upon the Dewey Decimal System, and secured an outfit at a cost of \$51.75 on the 9th of February, 1892. After copying the lists of the former Librarians in the new accession book, I began writing the card catalog and kept it up until the Rev. B. J. Muus' Library arrived, in 1899. From that time my little spare time was not sufficient to write a complete card-catalog, until 1907 when I was relieved of a part of my work as teacher and could devote more time to the Library. Since that time all new accessions have been catalogued, and also the greater part of what had accrued in the meantime. All cards have been written by the Librarian. A new card case was procured last year, having a capacity of 18,000 cards.

Mention should be made of the gifts made for the adornment of the Library. Plaster-casts were presented by the Class of 1902, the Apollo Belvedere, and by the Class of 1903, Hermes, and Venus of Melos. A portrait bust of Henrik Ibsen was presented to the College by the citizens of Aalesund in 1906. Rev. H. Voldal presented an original work modeled by S. Asbjörnsen in 1892, representing a Norse pilot. Portraits of the donors of the building, Consul and Mrs. Halle Steensland, and of other benefactors, Dr. Phillips, J. J. Hill, and Harold Thorson, adorn the walls, also portraits of Tennyson and Gladstone, presented by Prof. E. W. Schmidt.

O. G. FELLAND.

